

# SCHOOL LINKING

*Transforming lives through education*



## TOGETHER WE LEARN

Together We Learn was originally established on a simple ethos: to link schools and pupils in the UK and Ethiopia to allow both to learn from one another.

Over the last 20 years, our mission has grown to include activities that increase access to education in Ethiopia; training teachers, building new classrooms and supporting families directly through child sponsorship. School linking remains one of our core activities to develop mutual understanding and respect between different cultures.

## WHY ESTABLISH A LINK?

A school link is a good way to get pupils excited about another country. It provides an opportunity for your pupils to learn about another culture and encourages them to appreciate diversity both locally and globally.

The school links programme is designed to encourage children to question the single story about 'poor Africa' which is often told, using the example of Ethiopia. We encourage schools and students to engage in a meaningful, sustainable and equitable relationship with their link partners.

## SUPPORTING GLOBAL LEARNING

Developing a link with a school in another continent contributes to your school's PSHE and SMSC requirements. Linking with schools in Ethiopia introduces pupils to a different culture and provides a space in which they can explore other spiritual beliefs and social viewpoints.

Being part of a school link contributes to a broad and balanced curriculum, makes your school eligible for the International School Award and enables participation in a global community of like-minded schools.

## EXPERT GUIDANCE

Diving into teaching about an unfamiliar country can seem daunting for teachers without support and assistance. This is why we provide detailed lesson plans and advice on the best way to get your school link started and maintain a meaningful partnership.

As an organisation we have over 20 years experience of working with schools and in-depth knowledge of Ethiopia to draw upon. We provide support on all aspects of school linking and keep you up-to-date with the latest news and developments.

# YOUR SCHOOL LINK

A school link is a one-to-one relationship with a school in Ethiopia, enabling you to build a relationship over several years. The link will allow students to learn about a new culture and gain in-depth knowledge of another country.

Our team in Ethiopia will identify a local school seeking to partner with a school in the UK. The link is formalised with a signed agreement and the UK school receives a profile, including notice board materials, on their linked school in Ethiopia. The Ethiopian school will receive a notice board and information about your school to display their new school link.

From there we will provide themed lesson plans every term, facilitate annual shared learning activities between your schools, and send regular newsletters. The Together We Learn school linking staff in both the UK and Ethiopia will support your link.

## A school link includes:

- A **welcome assembly or class talk** from a member of our Together We Learn's UK team or prepared presentation for your school link coordinator. We will introduce your pupils to the school link, and Ethiopia as a country.
- A **welcome pack** including information about your linked school, noticeboard resources and a formal linking agreement.
- **Shared learning exercises** sent between students in each school; a great way for pupils to learn about, and from, each other!
- **Newsletters** each term with information about Together We Learn's wider work and topical questions for discussion.
- A **themed lesson plan** for each school term. The plans include a presentation and activities to explore topics affecting children in the UK and Ethiopia. The lessons invite pupils to examine different perspectives and are prepared with national curriculum requirements in mind.
- Access to our online bank of over 50 **teaching resources**.
- **Support** from our UK office to assist with your school link and related activities such as arranging contact with **visiting speakers and teacher and student exchanges**.

A school link is £500 a year.

We offer discounted rates for state schools:  
£350 a year for state secondary schools  
£250 a year for state primary schools.





TOGETHER WE LEARN

# LINKING & LEARNING



*"First hand experience of life in Ethiopia has a huge impact on our teaching of development issues and to understanding different values and cultures in Africa. We have built the coffee ceremony into our year 7 break-out day and have a whole scheme of learning in year 8 based on Ethiopian life."*  
- Isobel, Geography Teacher



Backwell Secondary school in Bristol has had a School-to-School Connection with Angereb Secondary in Gondar since 2007. Over the years, a generation of Backwell students have had the chance to learn about Ethiopia by communicating directly with students in Gondar, through school visits from Ethiopian teachers and Together We Learn (then Link Ethiopia) staff in 2011 and 2018 and by travelling to Ethiopia as gap year volunteers 7 times over the years.

Angereb students, in turn, have been able to improve their English through shared learning exercises and teachers have participated in the sharing of best practice as part of teacher exchanges.

Backwell students have participated in a shared learning activity every year and even contributed to our lesson resources by developing a curriculum on water use and sustainability for both schools in 2010.

Backwell students have driven the link themselves, and built up their practical skills and first-hand knowledge of global learning by organising fundraising activities to build new IT and toilet facilities in Angereb in 2007 and 2015 and by visiting their partner school as volunteers.

TOGETHER WE LEARN

# BUILDING A FUTURE



Headington School approached Together We Learn in 2012 to organize a student trip. They wanted to give their students the opportunity to visit a school in Ethiopia for the first time and also to make a lasting difference for the students there.

Talking to our team in Bishoftu, South Ethiopia, we arranged a volunteer placement at Hamle 19 school in Assela.

We shared information with the teachers and students at Headington about the needs of Hamle 19 school and made a plan to help the school build a new toilet block. Headington students organised a number of activities to raise funds and were able to raise £3,000 for Hamle 19.

The same year, a group of students and teachers from Headington flew to Ethiopia for a 2 week trip during which time they met the students of Hamle 19, learnt first-hand about local culture and history and were able to help with the toilet construction.

Headington have kept their connection with Hamle 19 school and the town of Assella, organising a further five fundraising trips to Hamle 19 and, more recently, to Doshia and Silingo Elementary schools.

Since 2012 their fundraising and volunteering have built two classroom blocks, a sports pitch, two toilet blocks and a library building. New facilities that will benefit a generation of children in Assela, inspiring students in the UK and Ethiopia.

*"The staff and students were really welcoming and it is encouraging to know that our work at the school is going to make a difference to their education. The team had all worked hard to fundraise before the trip - babysitting, selling things, bake sales - and once they had met the children at the school, a number of them wished they could have done more. We are looking forward to seeing the developments with the classroom block and hopefully to return next year with a new team to complete another floor."*

Deputy Head Teacher of Headington School



# What can you see?

This art was made by children in Gondar, Ethiopia.



## WHAT'S IN A LESSON PLAN?

Our lesson plans have been developed to meet the needs of the curriculum, SMSC, and PSHE requirements of your school. They have been designed so that they are adaptable for you, because you know best what is most relevant for your pupils. Each plan is available in different key stage focuses.

Each lesson plan has a theme such as sports, global warming, gender equality.

- **A Lesson Plan guide** explains the overall learning objective, what resources are required and a "how-to" guide for the class exercises.
- **Teaching Objectives** explain what subjects the lesson, presentation and exercises touch on and related learning objectives
- **A Powerpoint presentation** is provided in an editable format so you can adjust it to make it relevant for your class and other subjects they may be studying . The presentation includes guidance notes for each slide.
- **Class exercises** with resources for pre-presentation and post-presentation activities, will help get children thinking. The exercises range from creative writing to research exercises, depending on the key stage and theme .
- **Links to further information** are provided in the Lesson Plan document which includes further articles to read, or research and discussion topics you can draw your pupils' attention to.
- **Posters** may also be provided on the topic to display on your school link noticeboard.

# RESOURCES

**KS1-2 Music in Ethiopia**  
 Activity – Traditional Ethiopian instruments

Look carefully at the instruments.  
 How do you think they are played?  
 What do you think they are made of?  
 Which other musical instruments do they remind you of?

**Ethiopian musical instruments**



krar  
 begena  
 masenqo  
 embilta  
 kebero

**Activities: KS1-2 Music – Music in Ethiopia**

Learn about a variety of music with Ethiopian origins. They are encouraged to think about the history of Ethiopian music and its influences. They make links to Ethiopian and global music today and think about what is the same and what is different.

Learn about a variety of music with Ethiopian origins. They are encouraged to think about the history of Ethiopian music and its influences. They make links to Ethiopian and global music today and think about what is the same and what is different.	<p><b>Learning outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners will be able to name similarities and differences between music they are familiar with and music from Ethiopia.</li> <li>Learners will be able to listen attentively to a new genre of music and begin to understand how it is performed.</li> </ul>
Learn about music with Ethiopian origins. They make links to Ethiopian and global music today and think about what is the same and what is different.	<p><b>Resources</b></p> <p>KS1-2 Music in Ethiopia Lesson Presentation PowerPoint              KS1-2 Music in Ethiopia Lesson Resource Sheet              YouTube links to various live music performances of music in Ethiopia (see lesson plan and presentation for links).</p>

**Study – Key Stage 1**

Concentration and understanding to a range of high-quality live and recorded music.


**Links and further reading for teachers**

Many teachers wanting to help their learners understand the Ethiopian context have been frustrated by the lack of availability of age-appropriate and relevant material. This resource on music in Ethiopia to address part of that need. There are also many resources available online to help teachers improve their own subject knowledge and pursue their interest in Ethiopia's fascinating culture and people.

- Watch a document on Timkat

**London to Addis – task**

- Listen to a few tracks from *London to Addis* and choose your favourite.
- Which instrument can you hear sampled?
- Be prepared to present the track to the class.
- What do you like about the track?



Visit this site to listen to the tracks:  
<https://nohatsnohoods.bandcamp.com/album/london-to-addis>

**Music in Lalibela** to find out about the part that traditional music plays in the region.

**Music** as an introduction to some of the music of the last century.

To introduce Ethiopian music, I have chosen to use a song by the diaspora Ethiopians based in London. They miss so much. Listen out for the words 'come' and 'get in'. You can find the song hosted by Selam at Rich

***"We have studied Ethiopia as part of a Whole School Creative Curriculum theme and the partnership has benefited because of this. Our pupils love to receive letters from their pen pals and there is a real buzz around school whenever we focus on the link. We have been very impressed with the level of support and communication given to our school."***

- Joy, Head Teacher in Leicestershire

***"We found the resources provided were so thought-provoking that they impacted on the whole curriculum."***

- Lyn, Teacher in Hertfordshire

***"We had an Ofsted inspection [...]. The inspector came on the day my class was introducing the school link [...] and judged the assembly to be outstanding!"***

- Carolyn, Teacher in Suffolk

***"Probably one of the biggest impacts has been through the gap scheme. [Students have] always returned full of their stories and have taken numerous assemblies to pass on the message about the rewards of supporting our school link students."***

- Isobel, Teacher in Bristol

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SET UP  
A SCHOOL LINK FOR YOUR  
SCHOOL, OR YOU HAVE ANY  
FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT  
SCHOOL LINKING, CONTACT  
OUR FRIENDLY LONDON TEAM**



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